

Ballot Argument Against Proposition 22

Proposition 22 is another one of those propositions that sounds good, but is filled with hidden provisions that hurt taxpayers. Look at what it really does.

If Proposition 22 passes our schools stand to lose over \$1 billion immediately and an additional \$400 million every year after that. That is the equivalent of 5,700 teachers every year. It means larger class sizes. Overcrowded schools. Cuts in academics, music, art, vocational training, and classroom safety.

At a time when our public schools are already suffering from crippling budget cuts, Proposition 22 would devastate them. That's why the California Teachers Association, joined by school principals and parents across the state, say strongly: Vote NO on Proposition 22.

If that isn't bad enough, Proposition 22 also takes money that firefighters across the state need. The California Professional Firefighters opposes Proposition 22 because it will leave us all in greater danger from fires, earthquakes, floods, and other natural disasters. It also means cuts in emergency medical services, forcing longer response times if your family needs a paramedic – or perhaps no paramedic at all in a major emergency.

Proposition 22 will reduce funding available for health care at a time when our safety net for children is already collapsing. Tens of thousands of children in California are at risk of losing their health insurance and access to affordable health care if Proposition 22 passes.

Finally, Proposition 22 has another hidden provision – it locks protections for redevelopment agencies into the State Constitution forever. These agencies have the power to take your property away with eminent domain. They skim off

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billions in local property taxes, with much of that money ending up in the hands of local developers. And they do so with no direct voter oversight.

Supporters of Proposition 22 claim this will somehow help public services. We disagree. Your tax dollars should go first to schools, public safety, and health care. They should go LAST to the developers and the redevelopment agencies that support this proposal.

In 2004, voters approved Proposition 1A which allows local funds to be borrowed in times of real fiscal crisis, but requires full repayment within 3 years.

Proposition 22 will reverse what Californians wisely approved in 2004, leaving schools, children's health care, seniors, the blind and disabled with even less hope.

Riverside City Firefighter Timothy Strack says, "Proposition 22 won't put one more firefighter on an engine or one more paramedic in an ambulance. It simply props open the door for redevelopment agencies to take away our public safety funding."

We all know that ballot propositions often don't do what they promise, and too often make things worse. Proposition 22 is the perfect example. During the current budget crisis we face throughout our state, why would locking in more budgeting be a smart thing? With virtually no accountability and no taxpayer protections? To benefit redevelopment agencies and the developers they serve?

Protect our schools. Our public safety. Our children's health care. Vote NO on Proposition 22.

Signed,

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